

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 INT-05 EB-08 COME-00
DLOS-06 SAL-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 /066 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, KS, UR, JA

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ROK POLLOCK FISHERY OFF KAMCHATKA

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2677 (B) MOSCOW 1474 (C) STATE 48712
(D) STATE 36768

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 11 DEPT. REPRESENTATIVES MADE APPROACH
INDICATED REFTEL (C) TO SOVIET EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, ON
SOVIET INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ROK POLLOCK FISHERY OFF
KAMCHATKA. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE CLEARLY NOT PREPARED TO
COMMENT DIRECTLY ON ISSUE. HOWEVER, QUESTION WAS RECEIVED
IN MORE POSITIVE MANNER THAN IN EARLIER APPROACHES REPORT-
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ED REFTELS (A) AND (B) AND COMMITMENT WAS MADE BY SOVIETS
TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 11, DEPT. REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH MINISTER
VASEV AND COUNSELOR YURI ZNAMENSKIY TO SEEK CLARIFICATION
OF SOVIET POLICY TOWARD ROK POLLOCK FISHERY OFF KAMCHATKA
IN LIGHT OF PROVISIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF SOVIET 200-MILE

FISHERY ZONE. DEPT. REPS BEGAN BY OBSERVING THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE NOW OCCUPIED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE 200-MILE FISHERY ZONES, AND THAT TO ASSIST WITH ITS OWN IMPLEMENTATION, THE UNITED STATES DESIRED CLARIFICATION ON SOVIET APPROACH IN CERTAIN AREAS. THEY NOTED

THAT OVERALL LEVELS OF FOREIGN FISHING WOULD BE LOWER IN U.S. FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE FOR 1977, BUT STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO MAINTAIN, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, TRADITIONAL FISHING PATTERNS, AND HOPED SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE A GENERAL ONE THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC. MINISTER VASEV WAS ASKED HOW THE SOVIETS INTENDED TO TREAT THIS FACTOR WITH RESPECT TO ALL LITTORAL STATES WITH TRADITIONAL FISHERIES IN THE SOVIET ZONE AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER ANY DRAMATIC CHANGES IN TRADITIONAL FISHING PATTERNS WERE ANTICIPATED.

2. MINISTER VASEV REPLIED BY STRESSING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOVIET REGIMES, EMPHASIZING THAT THE SOVIET ACTION WAS MORE QUOTE AD HOC UNQUOTE IN NATURE, AND DIRECTLY LINKED TO A FUTURE SETTLEMENT OF FISHERY AND RELATED ISSUES AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. AFTER AN ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE IN WHICH MINISTER VASEV BEGAN DISCUSSION OF DIRECT U.S.-SOVIET INTERACTIONS IN ESTABLISHING THEIR FISHERY ZONES, DEPT. OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT U.S. CONCERN WAS STATUS OF THE TRADITIONAL POLLOCK FISHERY OFF KAMCHATKA, EFFECTIVELY FOCUSING DISCUSSION ON ROK ISSUE.

3. MINISTER VASEV RESPONDED IN GENERAL TERMS, HINTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SUCH AWKWARD SITUATIONS WERE THE PRODUCT OF SUCH AN QUOTE AD HOC UNQUOTE ACTION MADE NECESSARY BY THE UNILATERAL JURISDICTION CLAIMS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HE STATED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD SAY AT THE PRESENT TIME THAT WOULD CLARIFY THE QUESTION WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED. COUNSELOR ZNAMENSKIY THEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REEMPHASIZE SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH THE APPROXIMATE 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THEIR 1977 POLLOCK FISHERY WITHIN THE U.S. ZONE, INDICATING THAT THE 100,000 M.T. LOSS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE UP QUOTE SOMEWHERE UNQUOTE. DEPT. REPS EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE REDUCTIONS IN CERTAIN FISHERIES WERE JUSTIFIED IT WAS THE TOTAL DISPLACEMENT OF TRADITIONAL FISHERIES WHICH WAS OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY ADDED THAT THE U.S. WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED IN THE CASE OF THE ROK FISHERY SINCE ITS ELIMINATION WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT SEVERAL LARGE U.S. PROCESSORS, SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS OF ROK POLLOCK. DEPT. REPS AGAIN ASKED WHAT WEIGHT WOULD BE ASSIGNED TRADITIONAL FISHING IN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO LITTORAL STATES

WITHIN THE SOVIET ZONE, AND IF A DECISION HAD NOT YET
BEEN MADE, HOW WOULD SUCH TRADITIONAL FISHING BE TREATED
IN THE INTERIM? MINISTER VASEV AGAIN INDICATED THAT HE
COULD NOT PROVIDE A SPECIFIC RESPONSE AT THE PRESENT
TIME, BUT OFFERED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM MOSCOW.

4. FOR SEOUL: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE
FISHERY OFFICIALS THAT DEPT. HAS UNDERTAKEN ANOTHER
APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON STATUS OF THEIR POLLOCK FISHERY OFF
KAMCHATKA. EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE ARE AWAITING
RESPONSE WITHOUT REVEALING SPECIFICS OF APPROACH NOTED
ABOVE.
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